

2. Two parties of red ants had taken up their residence in trees in the garden of Nang Pon (ນັງພອນ) in Mahasarakam, one tree being situated to the East and the other to the West of the house. At daybreak one morning in March, these two parties of ants left their trees, and as though by arrangement met in battle on the verandah. Later the combatants withdrew their forces to the beams of the house, where they continued to fight. Late in the afternoon when the floor of the verandah had cooled down, they returned to this battle-ground fighting there till dusk. Next morning and for several days the conflict continued until the losses were so great on both sides that it may be said they completely annihilated each other. Quarter was neither given nor asked for; the fight was one to the death.

F. H. GILES.

1st May, 1935.

#### No. VI. Notes on Birds in North Siam.

The following records of rare or unusual birds seen or taken during a recent collecting expedition to Doi Angka (Doi Intanon), Siam's highest peak, seem worthy of mention in the *Journal*.

##### 1. *Elanus caeruleus vociferus* (Lath.). Black-winged Kite.

An example of this lovely Hawk was seen, though not collected, 11 September, 1935, perched on a dead tree beside the highway about two kilometres north of Chomtong. I have never before met with this bird in North Siam.

##### 2. *Pitta oatesi oatesi* (Hume). Fulvous Pitta.

A snared female was brought me by Karen's at Doi Angka, 4 September, 1935. They assured me that this is the bird known throughout the North as "pet bong" (bong duck), whose cry "bong-bong" is a familiar night sound in the mountains. Usually they call in pairs, the first one being answered at once by another in a different pitch. In French Laos, according to Delacour, the name "pet bong" is applied to the duck, *Asarcornis*.

This Pitta is rarely taken in Siam; my only other specimen was shot in the spring of 1931 at Doi Angka under the impression that it was a squirrel.

##### 3. *Suthora poliotis feae* Salvad. Salvadori's Suthora.

A male and two females of this little-known bird were taken by my collector from a flock of four at Doi Angka, 9 September, 1935. He reported them as being found in high grass at about 5,000 feet. De Schauensee's specimens taken in February and July on Doi Sutep have been hitherto the only ones known from Siam.

4. *Parus major commixtus* Swinh. Burmese Great Titmouse.

These birds are not uncommon in pines and clearings made by the Karens between 3,500 and 4,500 feet on Doi Angka; above and below these altitudes the jungle is quite unsuitable for them. They also occur on Doi Chiengdao, but are unknown in the extensive pine-growth on Doi Sutep, which lies halfway between the other two mountains. Doi Angka may prove to be the southern limit of the range of this race in Siam.

5. *Cerasopha thompsoni* Bingham. Bingham's White-headed Bulbul.

One of a flock of five of this very rare species was taken on Doi Angka at about 4,500 feet, 8 September, 1935. In Siam it has previously been found only on Doi Chiengdao, Doi Sutep, and Doi Nang Keo.

6. *Cinclus pallasi? marila* Swinh. ?Formosan Brown Dipper.

A pair of Dippers was found in 1930 and again in 1931 at a huge and magnificent waterfall of the Mae Klang far up Doi Angka, in company with *Chaimarrornis*, *Rhyacornis*, and other waterfall birds. I believe that Mr. C. J. Aagaard took a specimen of *Cinclus* at this place sometime in 1931, though the record seems not to have been published. On 31 August, 1935, one Dipper was seen again at the same locality. I have not met with this bird elsewhere in Siam.

7. *Muscisylvia leucura* Hodgs. White-tailed Blue Robin.

A male in the spotted immature plumage was taken 2 September, 1935, on Doi Angka at about 4,600 feet, in heavy cloud-forest. I have found this species only twice before—once on Doi Sutep and on Doi Angka in 1931.

8. *Zoothera marginata* Blyth. Lesser Long-billed Thrush.

Four specimens in various stages of immaturity were taken 5 and 7 September, 1935, on Doi Angka between 4,600 and 4,800 feet; two other young birds were seen but not collected, 4 September. The alarm-note was a reiterated "pit-pit-pit". This bird is apparently, perhaps actually, exceedingly rare in North Siam.

9. *Phylloergates coronatus coronatus* Blyth. Golden-headed Warbler.

Two specimens were taken on Doi Angka, 4 and 6 September, 1935, at 5,000 and 4,600 feet. The second, a young male, lacks the rufous crown, this part being concolorous with the back. I have met with this bird only once before, on Doi Chiengdao in wet evergreen; both of these specimens were found in high grass.

10. *Hemichelidon ferruginea* Hodgs. Ferruginous Flycatcher.

An adult female was taken at the edge of the evergreen on Doi Angka at 4,600 feet, 1 September, 1935. My only other specimen was collected near the same spot in April, 1931. It seems to be a rare bird in the North.

11. *Hemichelidon sibirica* ?subsp. Sooty Flycatcher.

Specimens were taken at a grassy area with a few small trees, on Doi Angka, at 5,000 feet 2 and 4 September, 1935. I have not previously met with this bird anywhere in the North.

12. *Emberiza pusilla* Pall. Little Bunting.

One was seen high up on Doi Angka in April, 1931, but was not collected. Since then the bird has been definitely added to the Siamese avifauna by specimens taken on Doi Sutep. As its known distribution in Siam is so limited, it seems worth while to mention this sight-record.

I should like to call the attention of members of the Society to the fact that, during recent years, a large number of Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*) have been ringed under the auspices of the Ornithological Society of Japan. Inasmuch as at least one return has come to the Society from so far afield as the Philippine Islands, and since Herons as a group wander widely when not breeding, it is not improbable that some of these birds may reach Siam. In the event of one of these ringed individuals falling into the hands of a member, the locality and date of capture should be carefully noted and these data, together with the aluminium leg-band, sent either to Dr. Nagamichi Kuroda, Fukuyoshi cho, Akasaka, Tokyo, or to the undersigned, who will transmit them to Dr. Kuroda. Acknowledgement will be made and the information as to the date and locality of the bird's being ringed will be sent to those cooperating.

Chiengmai, 21 September, 1935.

H. G. DEIGNAN.

No. VII. Cleistogamous flower in *Ruellia tuberosa*.

This common wayside weed must be familiar to all Bangkok residents. Its large purple flowers seem to be produced, in Bangkok at least, throughout the year. Though seeing the plant nearly every day while in Bangkok, I never then examined it at all carefully. Some months ago Mrs. Collins kindly sent me seeds, which germinated well and finally grew into half a dozen healthy looking plants. These produced an abundance of flowers buds, which, to my surprise, proceeded to develop into ripe capsules without, at first any appearance of an open flower. Finally two fully developed flowers appeared, but not before many capsules had ripened and shed seeds which quickly germinated. On closer examination, I found that, when the flower bud had reached a certain stage, a little green-tipped cap, about 6 mm. long, was shed from its top. This cap proved to be the unopened corolla in a very young stage. Inside the cap were the stamens, whose anthers, though very small, had already dehisced and were shedding white pollen grains. Though no actual count was made, the proportion of cleistogamous to normal flowers was at least twenty to one. No further fully developed flowers have so far